

DLEP Meeting Date	27th November 2014
Paper Title	Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals and Waste Planning – Update
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Purpose and Summary	Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority has a statutory duty to cooperate with the LEP on relevant strategic matters. This report considers the positive contribution that minerals and waste planning makes to Dorset’s economy and updates members of the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP) on the preparation of Minerals and Waste Planning Policy documents. It also seeks a view from DLEP on how it might wish to be engaged during plan preparation and beyond.
Decision Required	To note the progress being made on the Mineral Sites Document and the Waste Plan. To confirm to the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority how the Local Enterprise Partnership would like to be involved in the preparation of minerals and waste planning documents and how the planning documents can contribute to the priorities of the DLEP.
Strategic Links	The provision of a steady supply of minerals and a network of sustainable waste management infrastructure will assist in the achievement of at least three of the LEP priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advancing integrated spatial and infrastructure planning across the whole conurbation • planning positively for sustainable economic growth, emphasising the need to be “open for business” • creating a culture of enterprise and improving employability skills, working with schools, colleges and employers to develop an enterprise friendly curriculum
Implications, impacts or risks	Report for information purposes. However, the Mineral and Waste Planning Authority does have a responsibility to engage with the LEP during the preparation of planning policy documents. Failure to do so could result in the Plans being found ‘unsound’ at examination.
Confidentiality	The attached paper is not confidential.

Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals and Waste Planning – Update

1. Introduction

1.1. Dorset County Council has a ‘duty to co-operate’ with other authorities and certain bodies on the preparation of development plans. The specific list of statutory bodies is prescribed within the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This list includes the relevant Local Enterprise Partnership.

2. Background to Minerals and Waste Planning in Dorset

2.1. Dorset County Council is the planning authority for minerals and waste matters within the county. It is required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to prepare minerals and waste plans to provide a strategic framework for minerals and waste development in the county.

2.2. By agreement with Bournemouth Borough Council and the Borough of Poole, Dorset County Council also undertakes work on minerals and waste planning policy documents covering Bournemouth and Poole as well as Dorset.

3. The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy

3.1. The Minerals Strategy was adopted by Dorset County Council, Bournemouth Borough Council and Borough of Poole on 6 May 2014. The Strategy is a plan setting out the vision, objectives and policies for meeting Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole’s mineral needs. It sets out the strategy for quarrying stone, sand and gravel, ball clay, oil and gas exploration and other minerals within the county, taking into account the need to meet requirements in a sustainable manner. The plan contains the policies and criteria used for considering planning applications for mineral developments. The plan can be viewed on our website at: <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/mcs>

3.2. The Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership was engaged relatively late in the Minerals Strategy’s development as it was not in existence during much of the plan’s preparation. Nevertheless, many of the organisations represented on the LEP Board were engaged throughout preparation of the plan. Additionally, economic development officers whose role is to provide support for the LEP were also consulted.

4. The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Mineral Sites Plan

4.1. Dorset County Council is currently preparing the Mineral Sites Plan. This Plan follows the Minerals Strategy by identifying specific sites for mineral extraction to meet the identified national, regional and local needs.

4.2. Between December 2013 and February 2014 Dorset County Council undertook initial consultation on all of the sites that had been nominated by mineral companies and landowners for consideration. Comments received have been considered, and a summary posted on our website at: <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/mineral-sites>

4.3. Additional sites have since been nominated to us and an additional consultation will be held in late spring/early summer 2015. Prior to this consultation full sustainability appraisal and

Conservation Regulations screening of site options will have taken place in order to provide guidance on the suitability of sites and discount sites that are unlikely to be deliverable.

4.4. The Minerals Strategy and the Mineral Sites Plan (when adopted) will play an important role in supporting economic development in the area by helping to provide a steady supply of minerals throughout the plan period, while also minimising the adverse impact of minerals extraction on key environmental assets. This also has important economic implications in terms of tourism and the green economy.

4.5. Other specific economic benefits associated with mineral production include:

- Maintaining a supply of aggregates for the construction industry, including infrastructure providers
- Providing a supply of building stone which helps to maintain local character and conserve heritage assets, which have direct economic benefits for Dorset's tourism industry
- Supporting specific jobs and skills associated with mineral production, some of which are high-skilled and well paid
- A continuing supply of oil and gas, principally from Wytch Farm, which brings benefits to the local economy, including the use of specialist skills via important local supply chains.

5. The Bournemouth Dorset and Poole Waste Plan

5.1. It is increasingly recognised that waste is an economic resource in its own right but also that good waste management infrastructure can help to reduce costs to business. With this in mind Dorset County Council is currently in the process of reviewing the Waste Local Plan (2006). The new Waste Plan, once adopted, will set out the strategy and allocate sites for waste management facilities for the period up to 2031. The Plan will cover the management of all wastes including local authority, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition, hazardous and waste water.

5.2. Between December 2013 and February 2014 Dorset County Council undertook consultation on the Waste Plan Issues Paper. This document was produced following a detailed review of current waste management activities including waste arisings and capacity of existing facilities. This work led to the identification of a series of needs and more general issues that the Waste Plan will need to address.

5.3. The schedule of comments made during the consultation, along with our officer responses to each comment, can be viewed on our website <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/waste-plan>

5.4. Work has since focused on the identification of site specific options for new waste facilities to meet the identified needs. Dorset County Council will undertake a further period of consultation in late spring/early summer 2015 on the draft Waste Plan. This will include draft policies and site options. Policies and options will have been refined through sustainability appraisal and Conservation Regulations screening.

5.5. In general terms the Waste Plan will support economic growth by providing the necessary waste management infrastructure needed by local authorities, businesses and industry.

5.6. One of the key issues facing the waste industry is implementation of the waste hierarchy which will include the move away from landfill towards recycling and energy recovery. This change in direction provides many specific economic benefits to the County including:

- reducing the exposure of local councils and businesses to Landfill Tax
- the creation of new facilities, within Dorset, which in turn provides new jobs, many of which may be more skilled than traditional employment at landfill sites
- the creation of heat and electricity for export to the local distribution grid or to specific users such as public buildings, reducing our reliance fossil fuels and contributing to security of energy supply
- new and improved local waste facilities/additional capacity which help to minimise transport costs and reduce impacts upon highway capacity
- extracting the maximum possible value from resources and generating revenue from reselling recyclables
- businesses may also benefit from being seen to be green by diverting their waste from landfill and maximising recycling.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the DLEP Board:

1. Notes the progress made to date on the Minerals Strategy, the Mineral Sites Plan and the Waste Plan
2. Considers the important role that the minerals and waste plans will play in supporting economic growth in the context of strategic issues facing Dorset, including their contribution to local infrastructure, housing and employment development
3. Feeds back its views on any specific economic issues or matters of relevance to minerals and waste planning that it wishes to be considered
4. Provides feedback to the Mineral and Waste Planning Authority on how it would like to be involved in the development of the Mineral Sites Plan and the Waste Plan in the future.

Possible options include:

Option a Regular updates to the LEP Board at key stages of plan preparation

Option b Further focused engagement on specific issues

Option c Other suggestions

7. Further Information

If you have any queries or would like any more information then please do not hesitate to contact the minerals and waste policy team.

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